

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 05669 270901Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 MCT-01 (ISO) W  
-----014813 270948Z /12

R 270700Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9264  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5669

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, VM, SN  
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM  
DECEMBER 24 HE INFORMED ME THAT SRV HAD APPROACHED  
SINGAPORE INDIRECTLY THROUGH TWO THIRD PARTIES TO  
SOUND OUT GOS WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE INVITATION TO  
NGUYEN DUY TRINH TO VISIT SINGAPORE DURING LATTER'S  
CURRENT TOUR OF ASEAN COUNTRIES. RAJA SAID THAT GOS,  
WHILE WILLING, BELIEVED THAT SRV APPROACH SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN MADE DIRECTLY TO SINGAPORE, E.G. THROUGH SRV  
EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR, AND PASSED THIS WORD BACK  
VIA THE GO-BETWEENS. THIS LED TO FURTHER HAGGLING,  
STILL THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARIES, WHICH ENDED BY HANOI  
SAYING THAT TRINH'S SCHEDULE HAD BECOME FIXED AND  
THAT SINGAPORE STOP COULD NOT BE ARRANGED AT THIS  
TIME. RAJA NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HANOI WAS NOT  
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RULING OUT VISIT BY RINH OR SOME OTHER SRV PERSONALITY  
AT A LATER DATE.

2. I SAID I SURMISSED THAT SRV'S INSISTENCE ON USING  
INTERMEDIARIES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SINGAPORE WAS  
DUE TO CONSIDERATIONS OF "FACE," IN THAT VIETNAMESE  
WERE RELUCTANT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SINGAPORE IN WAKE

OF AIR VIETNAM HIJACKING INCIDENT. RAJA DEMURRED, SAYING THAT HE BELIEVED THE VIETNAMESE WANTED TO USE THIRD PARTIES TO SEE WHOM THEY COULD TURN INTO "ERRAND BOYS" -- HELPERS WHO COULD BE REWARDED WITH A PAT ON THE HEAD FOR GOOD PERFORMANCE. WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, HE INDICATED THAT THE TWO INTERMEDIARIES IN THIS SITUATION WERE FELLOW ASEAN COUNTRIES.

3. RAJA OBSERVED REGARDING SRV-SINGAPORE RELATIONS IN GENERAL THAT HANOI HAD YET TO COMMENT ON SINGAPORE'S SENTENCING OF THE AIR VIETNAM HIJACKERS. HE SPECULATED FROM THIS THAT HANOI FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DENOUNCE THE SENTENCING, SINCE PUNISHMENTS METED OUT WERE EQUIVALENT TO WHAT OFFENDERS WOULD RECEIVE IN COUNTRIES NOT HAVING A DEATH PENALTY. HE ADDED THAT HANOI SEEMED TO BE GROWING MORE CAUTIOUS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES, PERHAPS DUE TO AN ASSESSMENT THAT ASEAN'S GROWING COHESIVENESS NOW HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN APPROACHING EACH MEMBER STATE.

HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 126943  
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**Subject:** SINGAPORE-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, VM, SN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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